setting must have inspired awe—the entrance through the tower*
ing city wall, the broad avenue leading to the Imperial City, prog-
ress through an imposing gateway which formed the main entrance
to the imperial precincts, then a succession of great courts flanked
by well-proportioned buildings, resplendent in their yellow-tiled
roofs and highly colored walls, and at last, after passage across a
huge court, the imperial throne-room and the imperial presence,
It must all have been most telling, especially when, as on impor-
tant occasions, the courts were the scene of stately ceremonial and
were flanked by the many dignitaries in their gorgeous official
robes and by uniformed servants and soldiers. Through centuries
of experience the Chinese learned to construct a capital to con-
form to their vision of a world-embracing rule and civilization.

GARDENS

With the Chinese, the art of garden-planting has been closely
related to architecture. Not only are buildings often designed to
fit into rather than to dominate nature, but through gardens that
adjustment is furthered. Buddhist and Taoist monasteries and
temples are often placed in mountain valleys. Trees and shrubs
are encouraged to grow a.bout them so that the buildings are half
hidden and harmonize with their natural surroundings. Paths
make accessible the chief beauty spots of the grounds. The Sum-
mer Palace outside Peiping, although built in the years of the de-
cay of the Ch'ing, displays remarkable success in the arrange-
ment of buildings to fit in with the landscape and in the alteration
of the landscape by roads, bridges, trees, and bodies of water in
such a fashion that, without seeming to do violence to it, it is made
to contribute to the buildings and to the pleasure

of the Court
So, too, the imperial palaces and their grounds in Peiping, with their pools and artificial hills and their planting of shrubs, are examples of harmonious planning. The way in which the builder has utilized the West Lake at Hangchow with its guardian hills is still another instance of Chinese skill in taking advantage of attractive scenery and enhancing its beauty and accessibility.

Many a private home has its gardens. These are usually formal and numbers of them have artificial rockeries which to the uninitiated Westerner seem somewhat bizarre and grotesque. The garden is often a miniature landscape, with hills, grottoes,